

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 39**

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**Introduced by Senator Steinberg**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)*

April 28, 2009

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39—Relative to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 39, as amended, Steinberg. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May 2009 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in California, and would encourage continued research in order to find treatments and eventually a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and care and support for patients and families.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly  
2 known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive and fatal  
3 neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and  
4 spinal cord; and

5 WHEREAS, When motor neurons die, the ability of the brain  
6 to initiate and control muscle movement is lost and never regained;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, As ALS progresses, patients lose the ability to  
9 walk, eat, speak, move, and breathe and require 24-hour,  
10 seven-day-a-week care; and

11 WHEREAS, ALS does not usually affect a patient's mental  
12 capacity, thus resulting in persons with ALS who are alert and  
13 aware while being trapped in their bodies; and

14 WHEREAS, ALS is usually diagnosed between 40 and 70 years  
15 of age, with the peak age of onset being around 56 years of age;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Every 90 minutes someone in the United States is  
18 diagnosed with ALS and every 90 minutes someone else dies of  
19 ALS; and

20 WHEREAS, ALS knows no boundaries and can strike anyone,  
21 resulting in all citizens being at risk of having ALS; and

22 WHEREAS, American veterans have a higher incidence of ALS  
23 than the general population, and Gulf War veterans, in particular,  
24 have twice the incidence of ALS compared to the general  
25 population; and

26 WHEREAS, Eighty-five percent of patients diagnosed with  
27 ALS survive only two to five years from the time of first noticing  
28 muscle weakness; and

29 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, prevention, or cure; and

30 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month  
31 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances  
32 and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has, not only on  
33 patients, but on patients' families as well, and recognizes the need  
34 for ALS research and for quality treatment, care, and support of  
35 patients and families living with ALS; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
37 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
38 hereby proclaims the month of May 2009 as Amyotrophic Lateral  
39 Sclerosis Awareness Month in California; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages continued research  
2 in order to find treatments and eventually a cure for amyotrophic  
3 lateral sclerosis and care and support for patients and families; and  
4 be it further

5     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
6 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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